

UK study on wipes in sewer blockages released

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Further consumer information on disposal of non-pushable material advised



Far greater consumer awareness on what can and cannot be pushed is required, according to a Water UK report released today that explores the impact of wipes and personal care items on UK sewer systems.

The analysis of over 50 sewer blockages confirmed that the *“majority of the sewer blockage material recovered comprised of non-pushable wipes that are not designed to be pushed.”* Baby wipes (that are never marketed as pushable) were the biggest non-pushable culprit, accounting for 78% (by weight) of identifiable products. Surface wipes, cosmetic wipes and feminine hygiene products (none of which are designed to be pushed) accounted for approximately 20%. Less than 1% was identified as products designed to be pushed.

The study, the biggest in-depth study of sewer blockages in the UK, was conducted throughout the summer of 2017 by Water UK, a membership organisation representing the major water and wastewater services, with further support and funding from the UK Government Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and EDANA, a trade association representing the wet-wipes, absorbent hygiene and nonwoven industries.

The report recommended a renewed and concerted effort to raise awareness among consumers on the correct disposal of wipes. EDANA has long promoted the use of a distinct

